



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND MATERIEL COMMAND  
504 SCOTT STREET  
FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND 21702-5012

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

MCMR-ZF

30 NOV 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

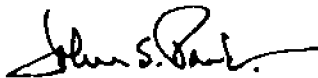
SUBJECT: Formation of Medical Research Information Technology System (MeRITS) Project Management Office

1. With my signature, I establish the subject office and assign COL Ralf Brueckner as the Project Manager for this system. COL Brueckner will be detailed to HQs, US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command for this duty and will report directly to me.
2. The Medical Research Information Technology System (MeRITS) will, when fully implemented, provide the means for electronic:
  - a. data capture from pre-clinical and clinical studies for easier access by investigators and support staff,
  - b. management of data and documents within the Command and with our industry partners,
  - c. submission of regulatory files to the FDA.
3. It will assist investigators and support staff in the planning, executing, monitoring, analyzing and reporting of medical research and development activities leading to FDA submission and approval. The ability of a Command system to collect, share, search, review, archive, and report all of our pertinent research data will make a significant and positive impact on our business practices. It has the potential to revolutionize our clinical trial monitoring processes, required by investigational drug and vaccine development. This is an area in which we particularly need to make significant improvements. The MeRITS holds great promise, and I believe will be a necessity for the command.
4. This new start will build upon everything that has already been accomplished in the past few years. This is also a means to re-emphasize my commitment to the MeRITS project, and provide directed guidance to USAMRMC subordinate organizations to actively assist in this journey. Your personnel will be called upon as Integrated Project Team (IPT) members and as advisors to the MeRITS office. They must be authorized to represent their organizations. Failure of a concerted team effort will result in a system that may not meet our needs!

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5. COL Brueckner has 12 years of experience in designing, planning, conducting, analyzing and reporting pre-clinical and clinical studies. He has been selected because he brings the perspective of a user and has ready relationships with users. Over the next 9-12 months I have requested that COL Brueckner conduct a business practice review from the perspective of what the users need, thereby validating the Command's requirements. He will conduct market research and gain a full understanding of available commercial products and services. He will then group the various users' needs into modules for costing, prioritization and potential execution. Finally, he will make recommendations to me or my successor for an achievable acquisition plan. For COL Brueckner, the Command, and the Army Medical Department to succeed, I need and request your support.



JOHN PARKER  
Major General, MC  
Commanding

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